

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS



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July 2nd 1951

File
for

Dear General Smith

If you have any
suggestions as the picture unfolds
don't hesitate to let me know.

The memorandum now
air mail to the full U.N.
list.

Gratefully Yours

Ernest E. Hoover

Minneapolis, Minnesota
June 28, 1951

MEMORANDUM: For the attention of the United Nations, the Non-Governmental Organizations co-operating therewith, and all who desire a Permanent Peace.

This writer suggested some weeks ago the feasibility of a Committee of One Thousand Americans to visit the Soviet Union. This Committee is to be composed of two hundred representatives each from Business, Labor and Agricultural organizations; one hundred each from Educators, Clergymen and Lawyers; and the balance of one hundred to be War Veteran organization Leaders; with an additional corps of news writers, camera men, language experts and secretarial staff. The cost of the venture is to be defrayed via a nation-wide appeal through Union Labor, Business and Agriculture.

The response to-date has been very satisfactory and we shall set up the committees to conduct the drive for funds and supervise all details of the project at the moment we are advised by the Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that American passports for the Committee will be honored.

The Secretary of State, United States Department of State, has indicated that our Government will be co-operative; to date the Soviet Embassy has remained silent.

We ask all who receive this Memorandum that they write, wire, or telephone the Soviet Union Embassy, Consular Division, Washington, D. C., and request that they show good faith in their efforts for Peace by stating they will honor the passports of such an American Pilgrimage for Peace and that the Soviet Union will inspire the world by immediate action, so that to this extent, we can believe their talk for peace sincere.

EMIL E. HOLMES, President
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Approved For Release 2003/06/12 : CIA-RDP80-010020088-2

AN Open Letter TO UNION LABOR

Fellow Americans —

You are entitled to this salutation for no section of our people has responded with more enthusiasm in the dark hours of war or the tragedy of a peace-time disaster whether it be flood, fire or any of the calamities that beset mankind when it is not bent on self-destruction in war. From among your sons and daughters have come legions of our most heroic, constructive and brilliant soldiers, sailors and pilots of the skyways of the world. Truly you can be considered the Spartans of the struggle that has taken place in the building of our Nation.

Time was when this writer from among your ranks took part in many efforts that stand as milestones in the history of Union Labor. I look back upon those events with pride and great satisfaction that, for the most part, they were contributions to the development of our Nation. When I came upon the scene in this world, Mother Jones was leading the American miners, Eugene V. Debs the railroad workers, Samuel Gompers was President of the American Federation of Labor when I first came in contact with it. The parent of the all-inclusive industrial union idea, the I.W.W. under the leadership of the capable but misguided Big Bill Haywood, was making history throughout the west. I had the pleasure of representing Labor before the Department of Justice and the President of the United States and speaking at hundreds of meetings. I trust, therefore, that none of you will close your minds, but grant that perhaps in my own small way it is possible that I can contribute an idea that will benefit all of the people of our country along with the members of Organized Labor — whether it be C.I.O., the United Mine Workers, the A. F. of L., the Railroad Brotherhoods, or just Labor that is not as yet organized.

During the period in our history concerning which I have just made reference, it was the object of Union Labor to help not only the members of their own organization, but none were more unselfish, none more vigorous in their denunciation of the people they felt made profits out of war. The war veteran never had a better friend than those great champions of human rights and complete, simon-pure patriotism. The phrase, "For God and Country," was the password of Labor throughout its organizational infancy. But something happened; it is not so today and, whether you like it or not, Labor is not making the forward strides that it must make if it is to be the great constructive force its founders and members have always felt that it was and should remain.

Let us take the subject of profits during the period when our Nation was at war. There was considerable in World War I but Labor did not cut into it except only in a small way. Then came World War II. And what happens? Why, war-time wages — Labor must be hired through the Union — and this was all great stuff, so some of the leaders of Labor told me. But was it? Let me examine some of the results and see what has taken place.

First, the great majority of those who make up the swollen membership do not understand and, I dare tell you, care less for any of the idealism that inspired the founders and early membership of Labor.

WHEN I BROUGHT FORTH THE AMERICAN SECURITY ALLIANCE WHICH, IN PLAIN LANGUAGE, IS A PLAN TO HAVE LABOR PARTICIPATE WITH EVERY OTHER GROUP ON A COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATIONAL BASIS, I WAS TOLD BY SOME LEADERS OF LABOR THAT IT WOULD DILUTE THE STRENGTH AND INFLUENCE OF

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LABOR: THAT WHAT LABOR GETS, IT MUST GET FOR ITSELF.

This leaves a very strong impression that so far as Union Labor is concerned they are selfish, arrogant, intolerant, and in plain language, the public can go to hell. That is wrong; it is incorrect from every standpoint, and it does not represent the purpose of Union Labor now any more than it did at the outset. I challenge anyone to debate this that so desires and before any Labor organization in the Nation.

All Labor understands that when they purchase food, wearing apparel, or a hundred other things, they are contributing directly to the maintenance of both Business and Agriculture. You all know that without your market, the American farmer would be up against a very meager existence. It is bad enough the way it is with all the elements of uncertainty that confront the farmer — climate, rust in grain, diseases in cattle, and whatnot. The agriculture of our Nation, for this reason, finds it necessary to be helped through the rough sea via a government subsidy; that is farm relief in plain language. Well, you never heard the farm groups growl too much about relief in the city; you have not heard any loud cry from the farms about legislation to curb Labor. Why? Well, because the Farmer knows that is his market, that the fellow with the union button on his hat was either delivering, selling or consuming his products and even on the farm it is not a popular idea to boot your customers around.

LET ME ALSO SUGGEST THAT LABOR HAS STOOD EQUALLY STRONG ALONGSIDE THE FARMER IN SUPPORTING FARM LEGISLATION AND ON THE MATTER OF IMPORTED PRODUCTS THAT GRACE THE AMERICAN TABLE.

Organized Labor has objected seriously to restrictive laws. We, they say, can run our own business; we don't need a Government agent acting as our guardian. Business has the same notions; so has the Farmer. Why not sit down together then and adjudicate our problems in every possible way without seeking Government help at every turn of the wheel?

Your attention is directed to the Resolution of Cooperation with the American Security Alliance, when it comes before your Union, or a motion for this purpose; pass it; elect your representatives; send them in with their sleeves rolled up. Remember — what is good for your City, State and the Nation, is good for Labor.

LET'S BURY THIS SELFISHNESS SO DEEP IT CAN NEVER AGAIN RAISE ITS UGLY HEAD. LET UNION LABOR STEP FORWARD IN PEACETIME TO CARRY THE FLAG, TO LEAD IN THE BATTLE AT HOME OR BEFORE THE ENEMY. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE TO ALL OUR PEOPLE THAT UNION LABOR IS THE CRADLE OF PATRIOTISM, THE FOUNTAIN OF LOVE FOR HOME AND COUNTRY, THE BEACON LIGHT OF HUMAN HOPES.

Responsibility of Labor:

This second section of this letter is being written as the news comes that the big 1951 Spring offensive is on in Korea. It would be well if every leader of Labor, Business and Agriculture would at once read "Korea Today" by the late Prof. George M. McCune, an internationally recognized authority on Far East problems, who left a document that the world cannot ignore and, especially, not Union Labor unless of course it has adopted the policy of going along without full understanding of

the facts and lacking the courage to state such facts. I especially challenge every member of Union Labor to read this book and make public their reaction.

From the radio and newspapers we hear almost constantly that our Government leaders are for peace. Joe Stalin claims the Soviet Union is for peace. However, during all this "Love Thy Neighbor" campaign we are drifting constantly toward war. The problem seems to be that of getting a showdown directly with the people of Soviet Russia. We have, for this reason, requested the Soviet Ambassador to the United States to tell us whether permission can be obtained to take a Committee of one thousand Americans to the Soviet Union.

If the U.S.S.R. will make a direct official statement that it does not dare allow such a committee to travel there and talk to its people — why, both ourselves and the people of the Soviet Union will know that war cannot be avoided and we have every moral right to urge them to revolution and to aid such an effort. We, on the other hand, must discard our own Iron Curtain thinkers and approach the problems as of global stature and that the economic foundation must be laid before any results can be expected in the United Nations or otherwise.

Organized Labor occupies a position of great responsibility in the creation of an economic program that will have support from the great mass of the people within each Nation.

During the next few months I hope to visit many European Nations and the Soviet Union if I can secure admittance. My purpose is to advocate and promote the following program:

1. To tell the Russian people we meet that the American people do not want war and that the charge against us of "imperialism" is untrue.
2. To declare that we recognize that the United Nations must accept responsibility for creation of a common world language or be reorganized.
3. To advocate that natural resources must be made available to the peoples of the world and that monopoly of steel, rubber, oil, etc., cannot be tolerated if a peaceful world is ever to exist.
4. To proclaim that the world trade must likewise be free with the establishment of a world monetary system without which free world trade means nothing, especially to the undeveloped and haven Nations.
5. We must go prepared to meet strong arguments against exchange of students, but the cost of ten thousand college students spending a year in the Soviet Union and a like number of Russian students spending a year in the United States would be the best possible investment for the promotion of world peace. The student groups should be on a 50-50 men and women division; both groups should be allowed the same cost of maintenance.
6. The question of disarmament will unfold as we get into the above stated points and as peaceful thinking enters, war thinking will evaporate.

We seek the aid, counsel and full participation of all American Labor. Will you of the rank and file go along with this? Write us your views at once.

Only the people can force peace.

Many world conferences have now been held. They will not create the peace unless and until Labor from both sides of the Iron Curtain demands action and, failing to get that, takes action. We on our side must enter the political campaigns of all parties and in every Nation.

The future of our humanity is in your hands! WHAT IS YOUR REPLY?